

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

May 23, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing in support of an application submitted by the City of Fife to the U.S. Department of Transportation's *Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE)* program for the Port of Tacoma Road / Interstate 5 (I-5) Interchange Improvement project.

The City of Fife is seeking a FASTLANE grant to reconstruct the Port of Tacoma Road / I-5 interchange and improve surrounding surface roads. This interchange serves as the main access road for freight to the Port of Tacoma and the Fife Industrial District. The current throughways are functionally deficient and heavily congested, with closely spaced intersections and high volumes of truck traffic.

This multi-phased project would build a new bridge over I-5 at 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue East for northbound traffic, convert the existing bridge at Port of Tacoma Road into a one-way southbound road, and create four intersections made up of two one-way approaches. These changes would improve truck and vehicle access to this critical industrial area and are of great importance to the Port of Tacoma, the surrounding industrial areas, and businesses in the Cities of Fife and Tacoma.

The Port of Tacoma is one of the busiest ports on the West Coast, serving as a critical national and regional gateway for exports and imports. As the last mile for the export of products grown and manufactured in the Pacific Northwest and throughout the country, the new bridge and upgraded intersections would improve freight mobility between the Port and warehouse and distribution centers. Similarly, it would ease the movement of seventy percent of the international container cargo unloaded at the Port of Tacoma and bound for destinations in the Mid-West and East Coast. This project would increase freight mobility, strengthen the Port of Tacoma's ability to compete in the global marketplace, and support more than 113,000 jobs in Washington state tied to the movement of goods through the Port of Tacoma.

In addition to the high volume of truck traffic that passes through I-5 and these interchanges there is also a significant number of commuters who regularly utilize this section of I-5. The combination of freight and commuters creates a bottleneck on both northbound and southbound I-5. This project would help mitigate the congestion caused by large trucks trying to get on or off the highway and into or out of the Port of Tacoma.

154 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704  
(202) 224-2621

2930 WETMORE AVENUE  
SUITE 903  
EVERETT, WA 98201-4107  
(425) 259-6515

2988 JACKSON FEDERAL BUILDING  
915 2ND AVENUE  
SEATTLE, WA 98174-1003  
(206) 553-5545  
TOLL FREE: (866) 481-9186

10 NORTH POST STREET  
SUITE 600  
SPOKANE, WA 99201-0712  
(509) 624-9515

950 PACIFIC AVENUE  
SUITE 650  
TACOMA, WA 98402-4450  
(253) 572-3636

THE MARSHALL HOUSE  
1323 OFFICER'S ROW  
VANCOUVER, WA 98661-3856  
(360) 696-7797

website: <http://murray.senate.gov>  
e-mail: <http://murray.senate.gov/email>  
PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

402 EAST YAKIMA AVENUE  
SUITE 420  
YAKIMA, WA 98901-2760  
(509) 453-7462

Thank you for your consideration of the City of Fife's application. Please contact Shavenor Winters in my Washington, D.C. office at 202-224-2621 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patty Murray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Patty Murray  
United States Senator